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SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL *for* Crippled Children

ATLANTA
GEORGIA

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Crippled Children's Hospital

Scottish Rite
Hospital for Crippled Children
ATLANTA, GA.

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FOREWORD

By J. C. GREENFIELD, 33rd Hon.

AND BEHOLD, I show you a Mystery!" In this utterance the inspired Apostle begins his answer to the great question of all time, the enigma of the ages, "If a man die shall he live again?" Paul was explaining Resurrection and its relation to Immortality, and two thousand years of comment and criticism have not improved his exegesis.

But there are mysteries on every side of us almost as profound as that of death. Come with me a few miles from Atlanta to the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children and I will show you many mysteries. One of these mysteries is also a Resurrection. A Resurrection from a living death to a life of joy and usefulness; from years of helplessness and possible pauperism to the certainty of health and self-sustaining citizenship.

I will show you the mysteries of a horribly mis-shapen pair of feet changing under the deft hands of a skilled surgeon to a set of normal extremities, and a pitiful, hobbling, child converted to a romping, racing youngster fairly exuding the joy of living.

I will show you the mystery of a distorted back, emerging gradually but surely from mis-shape to true-shape; from crookedness to straightness; from a curve to a line.

I will show you the mystery of a human being; the home of an immortal soul; supposed to be created in the image of God Himself; coming to the Hospital walking like a quadruped, and a few months later standing upright, looking his fellows in the face, and out of the fullness of a grateful heart saying, "This is the first time I ever stood erect."

I will show you a mystery of a child that never walked at all. Stricken shortly after birth by that dread disease, Infantile Paralysis, it came to us apparently a hopeless case, and yet, after treatment, that same child left the Hospital hand in hand with her mother, the only indication of her trouble being a slightly perceptible limp, which will disappear with growth and the approach of maturity.

But I can show you a still greater mystery. I can show you a charity, which, although called a Hospital, has none of the repel-

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lant features usually associated with such an institution. I will show you buildings filled with half a hundred children; their ages running from one to sixteen years; afflicted with every trouble known to orthopedic surgery; some stretched on iron frames; others bound with strange devices; still others wrapped in plaster casts; yet all happy, merry and light-hearted. The youngest seems to have caught the atmosphere of the place, and even to realize that it was begun, and is being fostered for the cure of their own particular case.

The parents, too, have grasped this fundamental idea. I have seen a mother steal quietly up to where her dear one lay, peer through the screen at him and then hurry away with tear-stained cheek, fearful lest the sight of her would make him, for the moment, unhappy. I have seen a father, after a week of hard toil, sit by the bedside of his little girl for hours to keep her company. I have seen another mother with the finger of the dread angel already pointed at her, kiss her son good-bye, and without a hint of the future walk away from him forever, lest the knowledge would, even for a moment, retard his recovery.

But I will show you a still greater mystery. Look at the pictures reproduced in this booklet. They are not specially selected, but are taken at random from the many cases that come to us. Observe the improvement in the facial expression of many of them. They show, in many cases, a progress from despair to hope, from sorrow to joy, from animalism and degeneracy to normal boyhood and girlhood. Surely this is a true Resurrection from things material to things spiritual.

A certain Dr. Forrester, in one of his articles, uses this pregnant sentence, "The best alms is that which makes alms unnecessary." This has been the guiding thought of the men who made this institution possible, and are directing its destinies. Constructive charity has been their aim; to enable others to help themselves has been their ultimate purpose. And when, as its material to work upon, it selects helpless childhood of indigent parentage, who are utterly without hope of receiving this service necessary for their case, they have reached the highest expression of a true charity. And surely this expression has been attained in the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children.

Have I not shown you many mysteries?

Our Field

Any crippled child that can be benefited, and that can fulfill the pre-requisites for admission.

Our Requirements

Possibility of improvement.
Normal mentality.
Inability to pay for the services rendered.

Our Non-Essentials

Religious creed.
Fraternal Affiliations.
Social standing.
Financial connections.

Our Object

To benefit helpless humanity.
To prevent possible pauperism.
To turn wealth consumers into wealth producers.
To exemplify Masonic principles.

HISTORY

The Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children is the outcome of a desire on the part of the brethren of Atlanta to put into practice some of the principles for which Masonry stands, and of a determination, on their part, to present to the world a concrete example of true charity and one on which the shadow of commercialism would never fall. To this end one of the fundamental rules adopted at the outset was that there should never be a pay patient admitted within its walls. This rule cannot be stressed too much; it places the Hospital on a pedestal above every other institution of its kind; it lifts it above the level of selfish interest; it is a recognition of the fact that we owe something to those to whom the good things of life do not come; and that every child, no matter how handicapped, is entitled to a fair start in the battle of life.

The Institution was opened for patients on September 1st, 1915, in two small cottages which had been converted as much as possible to suit Hospital needs. They were located on Hill Street, at the junction of the South Decatur car line and East Lake Drive, and the total capacity was twenty beds.

When it is remembered that the last census showed that there are nearly two hundred thousand crippled children in the United States under fourteen years of age, and that Georgia alone has over four thousand, it will be seen that this was a very small factor in relieving these various forms of disease.

The waiting list grew until finally the pressure upon the Institution became so great that plans were begun for the erection of new buildings with a much greater capacity, and better suited for the purposes for which they were to be used.

Under the old, cramped arrangement, when an operation was necessary the patient would have to be brought into the city a couple of days beforehand, placed in one of the local Hospitals, operated on and then carried back for convalescence. This was bad for the patient, inconvenient for the attendants and very much hampered the usefulness of the Institution.

In June, 1917, the demand became so great that a drive for funds was begun and about $22,000 subscribed and collected. This sum was so inadequate for the purpose, and the people of the country being at that time harassed by war troubles, and assailed on all sides for contributions for various purposes, that the matter lay dormant for a few months. Then a public-spirited member of

the Rite, in the person of Albert Steiner, came to the rescue and donated $25,000 toward the building fund. The Scottish Rite Body supplemented this with $20,000, and finally subscribed $20,000 additional, making $40,000 in all. From other sources about $15,000 was received, and despite the high cost of material and labor, in June, 1918, the Board of Governors determined to start the erection of the new building. Plans were drawn by a competent architect, who personally visited, at his own expense, institutions of similar nature in the North, and finally, on the first of August, 1919, the new structure was thrown open for occupancy.

The cost of the present building and equipment was about $130,000, and there is still a debt upon it of $30,000. This is being carried by local banks, and it is desired to liquidate it during the current year.

It is not too much to say that it is a model Institution, complete in every part, with operating room, dental room, X-ray apparatus, sterilizing outfit, and everything to make a complete unit within itself.

The new structures are located on the original site, about six acres having been purchased for the purpose.

The Staff has been selected with the utmost care, and is headed by Dr. Michael Hoke, a surgeon of international reputation, and the operations already performed savor of the miraculous. Every form of disease coming under the general terms of orthopaedics, including spinal curvature, club foot, tuberculosis of the bones and joints and all of the many ailments resulting from infantile paralysis and similar diseases are treated.

The present capacity is fifty-six beds. The cost of maintenance, in round figures, is about $500 per bed per annum. This is to be met by subscriptions from the brethren, by donations from outside interests, and its last and final deficit must be made up by the Scottish Rite Bodies.

The Hospital work is supplemented by a clinic which is operated largely for the benefit of local patients. This is one of the most important branches of the Hospital work.

During the first year sixty-two patients were received into the Hospital and one hundred and seventy-six into the clinic. Of these, twenty-seven were cured in the Hospital and fifty-two in the clinic, the others, of course, being still under treatment at the end of the year and being reported in the new year's work.

During the second year one hundred and fifty-seven children were received into the Hospital and two hundred and thirty-one into the clinic. Of these, sixty-one were discharged cured from the Hospital, and one hundred and twenty-seven from the clinic. During the year the number of operations performed by the Medical Staff was two hundred and twenty-five.

During the third year one hundred patients were entered in the Hospital and one hundred and thirty-seven in the clinic. Of these, fifty-seven were discharged from the Hospital cured and twenty-eight from the clinic. During the year they performed one hundred and ninety operations.

During the fourth year one hundred and thirty-two children entered the Hospital and two hundred and fifty-six were treated in the clinic. Of these, eighty-four were discharged from the Hospital and one hundred and four from the clinic. The operations this year totaled two hundred and fifty-five.

Of course, the figures given above, as to admissions, both in the Hospital and clinic, refer entirely to new entries and not to re-entries of children brought back for second treatments.

This, in brief, is a report of the Institution to date. The pictures shown herein speak for themselves.

Charities of this kind appeal to every class of citizens. It appeals to the business man because it prevents possible burdens upon the body politic; it appeals to the lover of his race because a helpless little child, dependent upon charity, and possibly without hope of benefit, touches every heart-string; it appeals to Masons because it is a constructive charity, and Masonry stands pre-eminently for building up; and it must appeal to the Scottish Rite Masons of Atlanta, because it is fostered by them, and they were the first to put into visible form an unselfish love for humanity.

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The improvement in W. J. Jackson was accomplished in twelve months.
(See opposite photograph.)

Little Ralph's feet were straightened in thirteen weeks.
(See opposite photograph.)

It required four months to place Preston's feet flat on the ground.
(See opposite photograph.)

It required seven months to straighten Claude's feet.
(See opposite photograph.)

Six months was necessary to correct the trouble with Clarence.
(See opposite photograph.)

Little John's troubles were over after five months.
(See opposite photograph.)

Nine months was necessary for Theodus.
(See opposite photograph.)

Louise's right leg was straightened and her feet brought flat to the ground in ten weeks.

(See opposite photograph.)

Lonie was older, but her foot was straightened in ten months.
(See opposite photograph.)

The improvement in William was accomplished in thirteen weeks.
(See opposite photograph.)

Susie, 15 years old, could not stand erect, but after ten months could stand with braces and these will soon be discarded. (See opposite photograph.)

We had Ralph for four months.
(See opposite photograph.)

The change in Joseph was brought about in four months. Especial attention is called to the improvement in facial expression.

(See opposite photograph.)

Clarke could walk only on his hands and feet and the improvement was brought about in twelve months.
(See opposite photograph.)

The change in Ernest's feet, after three months, was remarkable, but the change in his face was wonderful.

(See opposite photograph.)

Notice the difference in Brittain's expression after being enabled to stand erect for the first time.

(See opposite photograph.)

The change in Lawrence required only six months.
(See opposite photograph.)

Curtis could walk with crutches after eight months and as his muscles are developed, will be able to discard them.
(See opposite photograph.)

Engravings by

Wrigley Engraving Co.

Atlanta, Ga.

Printing by

Johnson-Dallis Co.

Atlanta, Ga.

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